



National Science Foundation • Office of Inspector General
2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

August 28, 2019

Emma Best
79443-75124818@requests.muckrock.com

Via E-mail

RE: FOIA Request No. 19-021

Dear Ms. Best:

You filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 USC 552. The National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General (NSF OIG) received the request on August 26, 2019. The request you filed was assigned the following number: F-2019-021. In your own words, you seek the following:

a copy of the list or printout or database listing of Inspector General investigations closed/reports completed during calendar year 2015. If the list is organized by FY rather than calendar year, the FY 2015 list is sufficient for this request. If no central list or database exists, then I request copies of the cover sheet or first page of each IG report completed during calendar year 2015.

Please note that this request, as currently framed, is ambiguous and clarification is needed before NSF OIG can begin to search for responsive records.

After reviewing the terms of your request, it seems that your use of the word “reports” and “investigations” is a bit unclear, as I shall explain herein.

The NSF Office of Inspector General (OIG) has an office of audit (OA) and an office of investigations (OI). On the OIG web page, one can click on OA’s reports as well as clicking on OI’s close-out memoranda. The latter pertain to OI’s closed investigations.

For access to OI’s closeout memoranda, which are posted in chronological order, please use the following file path: <https://www.nsf.gov/oig/case-closeout.jsp> and scroll through the information that interests you.

For access to the OA completed reports, please use the following file path: <https://www.nsf.gov/oig/reports/> and scroll through the information that interests you.

If these publicly available sources will satisfy your request, please advise and I will close out the request. If, however, you seek something other than these publicly available reports, please clarify. Once we have reached a mutual understanding of the scope of your request, I will consider this a perfected request, which will then start the “clock” for FOIA processing.

If you seek further assistance or wish to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact me, the OIG’s FOIA Public Liaison, at (703) 292-7100 or foiaoig@nsf.gov. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1(877) 684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely,

/s/

Elizabeth Sweetland
Assistant Counsel to the Inspector General
National Science Foundation
Office of Inspector General